



## Abortion-rights groups outspend opponents by more than 6 to 1 in ballot measure campaigns



Amendment 3 supporters Luz Maria Henriquez, second from left, executive director of the ACLU Missouri, celebrates with Mallory Schwarz, center, of Abortion Action Missouri, after the Missouri Supreme Court in Jefferson City, Mo., ruled that the amendment to protect abortion rights would stay on the November ballot, Sept. 10, 2024.

Associated Press

By GEOFF MULVIHILL  
Associated Press

The groups promoting ballot measures to add amendments to the constitutions in nine states that would enshrine a right to abortion have raised more than \$160 million. That's nearly six times what their opponents have

brought in, The Associated Press found in an analysis of campaign finance data compiled by the watchdog group Open Secrets and state governments.

The campaign spending reports are a snapshot in time, especially this late in the campaigns, when contributions are rolling in for many.

The cash advantage is showing up in ad spending, where data from the media tracking firm AdImpact shows campaigns have spent more than three times as much as opponents in ads on TV, streaming services, radio and websites.

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# Abortion-rights groups outspend opponents by more than 6 to 1 in ballot measure campaigns

Continued from Front

Abortion-rights supporters have prevailed on all seven ballot measures that have gone before voters since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, which ended a nationwide right to abortion and opened the door for the bans and restrictions that are now being enforced in most Republican-controlled states.

Most of the money is going to Florida

Florida is the behemoth in this year's abortion ballot-measure campaigns.

Proponents of the measure have raised more than \$75 million and opponents \$10 million. Combined, that's nearly half the national total. The state Republican Party is using additional funds, including from corporations across the country, to urge voters to reject the measure. Including that, supporters still lead in ad-buying: \$60 million to \$27 million.

The total spent as of Tuesday is about the same amount spent on the state's U.S. Senate race.

The amendment would overturn a ban on most abortions after the first six weeks of pregnancy — when women often don't know they're pregnant — that was signed by Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis and took effect in May. DeSantis' administration has taken steps to thwart the campaign for the amendment.

Florida's ballot measure rules give opponents a boost: Passage requires approval from 60% of voters instead of a simple majority.

An influx of funding arrives in South Dakota

South Dakota is an outlier, with a significant funding advantage for anti-abortion groups.

According to an Associated Press analysis of state campaign disclosures, they've raised about \$2 million compared with abortion-rights supporters' \$1 million.

There was a big change last week when the abortion-rights group Dakotans for Health reported that it had received \$540,000 from



Abortion rights advocates hold a rally in support of the "Yes On 4" campaign in downtown Orlando, Fla., April 13, 2024.

Associated Press

Think Big America, a fund launched by Illinois Gov. Jay Pritzker, a Democrat. The fund's director, Mike Ollen, said that's helping ads get seen more widely in what could be a close race.

Before that, national abortion-rights groups, including the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, had mostly ignored South Dakota because, they said, the ballot measure doesn't go far enough. It would allow regulations of abortions after the first 12 weeks of pregnancy if they relate to the health of the woman.

"We find ourselves being caught between being way too extreme on the right end of the spectrum and not extreme enough on the left end of the spectrum," said Rick Weiland, co-founder of Dakotans for Health. "We think we're right in the middle."

The anti-abortion campaign in South Dakota, like those elsewhere, is focused largely on portraying the amendment as too extreme. The Think Big money provided a new chance to do that.

"South Dakotans don't want extreme Chicago, San Francisco, and New York views

tainting our great state," Life Defense Fund spokesperson Caroline Woods said in a statement.

One anti-abortion group reported a \$25,000 contribution last week from South Dakota Republican Gov. Kristi Noem's political action committee.

Funding is close to even in a state with competing ballot measures

Nebraska has competing ballot measures.

One would allow abortion until viability, considered to be somewhere after 20 weeks. The other would bar abortion in most cases after the first 12 weeks — echoing current state law, but also allowing for a stricter one.

The side pushing to keep restrictions is leading the fundraising race, with at least \$9.8 million. One prominent family has supplied more than half of that. Republican U.S. Sen. Pete Ricketts has contributed more than \$1 million, and his mother, Marlene Ricketts, has chipped in \$4 million.

The campaign for more access has raised at least \$6.4 million.

In some states, the opposition has been quiet

In most places, abortion-

rights supporters have a big fundraising lead.

In Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Montana and Nevada, the opponents have each raised less than \$2 million.

Meanwhile, the groups promoting the questions in those states have all collected at least \$5 million.

The ballot questions have different circumstances.

Missouri's amendment would open the door to blocking the state's current ban on abortion at all stages of pregnancy, with some exceptions. Proponents of the measure have raised more than \$30 million to opponents' \$1.5 million.

In Arizona, passing the abortion amendment would roll back a ban after the first 15 weeks of pregnancy and instead allow it until fetal viability, and later in some cases. The state's Supreme Court ruled this year that an 1864 ban on abortion at all stages of pregnancy could be enforced, but the Legislature promptly repealed it. Colorado is one of the few states that already has no gestational limits on when during pregnancy abortion can be obtained. Montana allows abortion until viability.

Opponents of Nevada's measure have not reported any spending. To take effect, the amendment needs to pass this year and again in 2026.

Fundraising has been low on both sides in Maryland, though Pritzker's fund says it's sending money there, and New York, where a ballot measure doesn't mention abortion specifically but would bar discrimination based on "pregnancy outcomes and reproductive healthcare and autonomy." Big contributions from national groups are one-sided. Liberal groups, including those that aren't required to report who their donors are, are far more active in the campaigns than their anti-abortion counterparts. The Fairness Project, which promotes progressive ballot measures, has pledged \$30 million for this year's abortion amendments. So far, \$10 million in its contributions have shown up in campaign finance reports.

Several other abortion-rights groups have contributed \$5 million or more. No single entity on the anti-abortion side has reported giving that much.

Groups that funded the majority of last year's campaign against an Ohio abortion-rights amendment that voters approved are absent from this year's list of big contributors.

The Concord Fund, part of a network of political groups centered around conservative legal activist Leonard Leo, hasn't shown up in finance reports at all this year. Leo was a driving force in securing nominations of Supreme Court justices who voted to overturn *Roe*. Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America has not been active on abortion ballot measures this year, but it is pumping money into the presidential race in support of Republican Donald Trump.

"This is the most consequential fight for life before us," SBA spokesperson Kelsey Pritchard said in a statement, noting that the group is aiming to spend \$92 million in eight states in the presidential race. □



# North Korean troops in Russian uniforms are heading toward Ukraine, U.S. says

By TARA COPP and LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Wednesday that North Korean troops wearing Russian uniforms and carrying Russian equipment are moving to the Kursk region near Ukraine, in what he called a dangerous and destabilizing development. Austin was speaking at a press conference in Washington with South Korean Defense Minister Kim Yong-hyun, as concerns grow about Pyongyang's deployment of as many as 11,000 troops to Russia. The U.S. and South Korea say some of the North Korean troops are heading to Russia's Kursk region on the border with Ukraine, where the Kremlin's forces have struggled to push back a Ukrainian incursion. One senior Korean official said more than 3,000 of them are believed to have moved toward combat zones in western Russia, without specifying the locations. Some North Korean advance units have already



Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, right, welcomes South Korean Defense Minister Kim Yong Hyun, left, to the Pentagon on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024 in Washington.

Associated Press

arrived in the Kursk region. Austin said "the likelihood is pretty high" that Russia will use the North Korean troops in combat. He said officials are discussing what to do about the deployment, which he said has the potential to broaden or lengthen the conflict in Ukraine. Asked if it could

prompt other nations to get more directly involved in the conflict, he acknowledged that it could "encourage others to take action" but he provided no details. Kim said he doesn't necessarily believe the deployment will trigger war on the Korean Peninsula, but

could increase security threats between the two nations. There is a "high possibly" that Pyongyang would ask for higher technologies in exchange for its troop deployment, such as receiving tactical nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities, he said, speaking through an interpreter.

Both Kim and Austin called on North Korea to withdraw its troops.

North Korea's move to tighten its relationship with Russia have triggered alarms across the globe, as leaders worry about how it may expand the war in Ukraine and what Russian military aid will be delivered to Pyongyang in exchange.

"They're doing this because (Russian President Vladimir) Putin has lost a lot of troops," Austin said, adding that Moscow has a choice between mobilizing more of its own forces or turning to others for help. Already, he noted, Russia has sought military weapons from other nations. Those include North Korea and Iran.

The U.S. has estimated there are about 10,000 North Korean troops now in Russia. Seoul and its allies, however, assess that the number dispatched to Russia has increased to 11,000, according to a senior South Korean presidential official, who spoke on condition of anonymity during a background briefing. □

# Nicky Jam withdraws endorsement of Donald Trump over comedian's 'garbage' comment about Puerto Rico

By MARIA SHERMAN

AP Music Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Puerto Rican reggaeton singer Nicky Jam has withdrawn his endorsement of Donald Trump in the 2024 presidential election a month after appearing at a rally for the candidate.

Tony Hinchcliffe, a comic who called Puerto Rico "garbage" before a packed Trump rally in New York appears to be the catalyst.

"The reason why I supported Donald Trump was because I thought he was the best for the economy in the United States, where many Latinos live, many of us Latinos live, myself included, many immigrants who are suffering because of the economy and him, being

a businessman, I thought it was the best move," Jam said in Spanish, in a video statement posted to his official Instagram page.

"Never in my life did I think that a month later a comedian was going to come to criticize my country and speak badly of my country and therefore, I renounce any support for Donald Trump, and I sidestep any political situation. Respect Puerto Rico, Nicky Jam."

Representatives for Jam did not immediately respond to the Associated Press' request for comment.

Puerto Ricans cannot vote in general elections despite being U.S. citizens, but they can exert a powerful influence with relatives on the mainland. The effects of Hinchcliffe's remarks are

felt on the island and elsewhere: One of the biggest artists on the planet, the Grammy-award winning Puerto Rican superstar Bad Bunny, threw his support behind Vice President Kamala Harris, shortly afterward. Bad Bunny, born Benito Antonio Martínez, shared a video to his Instagram account Tuesday detailing the origins of Puerto Rico and its inhabitants' prominence in politics, sports and entertainment. The caption read: "garbage."

"We have been fighting since day one of our existence, we are the definition of heart and resistance," he wrote in Spanish. "Here we stand, here we are, and for those who forget who we are... don't worry, we proudly remind you."

Ricky Martin, who had previously endorsed Harris, was also offended by the comment and said "that's what they think of us," on Instagram. A representative for

Anuel AA, another famous Puerto Rican star who endorsed Trump last month, said he was on tour and unable to comment on Hinchcliffe's remarks. □



Nicky Jam speaks as Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump listens during a campaign event at the World Market Center, Sept. 13, 2024, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press



# More former cadets accuse U.S. Coast Guard Academy of failing to prevent campus sexual assaults

By SUSAN HAIGH  
Associated Press

Nine additional former cadets at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy have formally accused overseers of the prestigious service academy of failing to prevent and properly address sexual violence on campus, while also covering it up.

The claims, filed Wednesday, come more than a month after 13 former cadets filed similar federal complaints seeking \$10 million apiece in damages.

Many of latest unnamed plaintiffs contacted lawyers in the case after reading news accounts of the initial batch of administrative complaints filed against the Coast Guard; its parent agency, the Department of Homeland Security; and its former parent agency, the Department of Transportation, attorney Christine Dunn said.

"I am certain that these 22 are just the tip of the iceberg. I know that sexual assault has been taking place for decades at the Coast Guard Academy and that there are many survivors out there," she said. The 22 include 20 women and two men. Dunn said she hopes and expects more former cadets who have been assaulted will come forward.

"I want a whole army of survivors," she said. "I think that



The U.S. Coast Guard Academy is seen in early evening, July 15, 2024 in New London, Conn.

Associated Press

the more people you have, the harder it is to ignore us." The complaints stem from incidents dating back to the 1980s and as recent as 2017. Several detail how the former cadets were assaulted in their dorm rooms by classmates who were able to gain entry because Academy policy prevented cadets from locking their doors. One former cadet described going to bed at night in a sleeping bag cinched tightly around her neck because she was so fearful of being sexually assaulted in her sleep.

"The Coast Guard negli-

gently created, condoned, and actively concealed the rampant nature of sexual harassment and assault at the Academy, knowingly placing me and other cadets in danger," wrote one of the nine new plaintiffs.

"What happened to me was the entirely preventable result of the negligent actions," wrote the woman, who said she was sexually assaulted twice during her time at the Academy once by a classmate and once by an officer. She was diagnosed years later with depression and PTSD related to Military Sexual Trauma or MST and

now receives partial disability payments. The experience at the academy, she said, "ruined" her career and "negatively impacted" many relationships she has had over the years.

A message was left seeking comment with the Coast Guard. In statement released in September, officials said the service was barred by federal law from discussing the complaints and noted it is "devoting significant resources to improving prevention, victim support, and accountability."

The complaints follow revelations the Coast Guard

kept secret a probe, called Operation Fouled Anchor, into sexual assault and harassment on campus. The investigation found that dozens of cases involving cadets from 1990 to 2006 had been mishandled by the school, including the prevention of some perpetrators from being prosecuted.

The revelations, first reported by CNN, sparked calls for major reforms and long-awaited accountability for offenders and those who protected them. There are multiple government and congressional investigations underway looking into the mishandling of serious misbehavior at the school and beyond.

Coast Guard officials have previously said they are taking action to change and improve the culture at the academy and in the service in response to the allegations raised in the Operation Fouled Anchor investigation. Wednesday's filing marks the first in a multistep process of attempting to sue the federal government. After an administrative complaint is submitted, the agency that allegedly harmed the plaintiff gets six months or longer to investigate the claim. The agency can then settle or deny the claim. If a claim is denied, the plaintiff can then file a federal lawsuit, Dunn said. □

# U.S. sanctions 398 firms in more than a dozen countries, accusing them of helping Russia's war effort

By FATIMA HUSSEIN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. on Wednesday imposed sanctions on 398 firms across Russia, India, China and more than a dozen other nations, accusing them of providing products and services that enable Russia's war effort and aid its ability to evade sanctions. The effort spearheaded by the Treasury and State departments is aimed at punishing "third party countries" that are accused of providing material assistance to the Kremlin or assisting Russia in evading the thousands of sanctions that have been imposed on the country since its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Among those sanctioned by the Treasury Department are 274 companies accused of supplying Russia with advanced technology, as well as Russia-based defense

and manufacturing firms that produce or finish military products that maintain the weaponry used against Ukraine.

Additionally, the State Department imposed diplomatic sanctions on several senior Russian Ministry of Defense officials and defense companies, a group of China-based companies that export dual-use goods that fill critical gaps in Russia's military-industrial base and entities and individuals in Belarus related to the Lukashenko regime's support for Russia's defense industry.

Treasury's Deputy Secretary Wally Adeyemo said the U.S. and its allies "are unyielding in our resolve to diminish and degrade Russia's ability to equip its war machine and stop those seeking to aid their efforts through circumvention or evasion of our sanctions and export controls." □



The Treasury Building is viewed in Washington, May 4, 2021.

Associated Press



## Hezbollah chief says group will hold out in its war with Israel for 'suitable' cease-fire terms

By SALLY ABU ALJOUD

Associated Press

**BEIRUT (AP)** — Hezbollah's newly named leader Naim Kassem said in his first public comments aired Wednesday that the militant group will keep fighting in its ongoing war with Israel until it is offered cease-fire terms it deems acceptable.

"If the Israelis decide to stop the aggression, we say that we accept, but according to the conditions that we see as suitable," Kassem said, speaking from an undisclosed location in a pre-recorded televised address. "We will not beg for a cease fire as we will continue (fighting)... no matter how long it takes."

The speech came as international mediators have launched a new push for negotiated cease-fires in Lebanon and Gaza.

More than 2,790 people have been killed and 12,700 wounded in Lebanon since Oct. 8, 2023, when Hezbollah began firing rockets into Israel, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry. The con-



Hezbollah's deputy leader, Sheikh Naim Kassem, speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in Beirut's southern suburbs, Tuesday, July 2, 2024.

Associated Press

flikt escalated sharply last month and Israeli ground forces invaded southern Lebanon at the beginning of October. Some 1.2 million people have been displaced by the conflict in Lebanon according to government estimates.

In Israel, rockets, missiles,

and drones launched by Hezbollah have killed at least 63 people, about half of them soldiers. More than 60,000 Israelis from towns and cities along the border have been evacuated from their homes for more than a year.

Kassem, a cleric and

founding member of the Lebanese militant group, was named Tuesday to replace former longtime leader Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed in an Israeli airstrike on a Beirut suburb in late September. Kassem had served as Nasrallah's deputy for more than three

decades.

Several other high-ranking officials with the group, including Nasrallah's presumptive successor, Hashem Safieddine, have also been killed in recent weeks, as the Israel-Hezbollah war has escalated in Lebanon. Kassem said the series of blows dealt to the group in recent weeks - including pager and walkie-talkie explosions that targeted Hezbollah members in mid-September and the assassination of Nasrallah - had "hurt" the group, but he asserted that the group had been able to reorganize its ranks within eight days after Nasrallah's death.

"Hezbollah's capabilities are still available and compatible with a long war," he said. He pointed to the steady stream of Israeli soldiers wounded and killed in southern Lebanon since Israeli forces launched a ground invasion on Oct. 1, and to a drone launched by Hezbollah that hit the home of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu earlier this month. □

## Dutch asylum agency is fined 50,000 euros daily for an overcrowded center

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands**

**(AP)** — A Dutch court on Wednesday ordered the agency responsible for housing asylum-seekers to pay a 50,000-euro (\$54,000) penalty for every day that more than 2,000 migrants stay at an overcrowded center in the northern Netherlands that has become a symbol for the country's clogged asylum system.

The municipality that is home to the Ter Apel center brought a summary case against the organization in a bid to force it to relocate migrants to prevent breaches of a 2010 agreement that set 2,000 people as the maximum capacity. The case comes amid a heated national debate on migration and moves

by the hard-right dominated Dutch government to scrap a law that compels municipalities to house asylum-seekers.

Ter Apel is the most high profile example of a Dutch asylum system that is burdened with lengthy legal battles by migrants seeking to stay in the country and growing opposition to centers housing them.

In 2022, hundreds of migrants were forced to sleep outdoors near the Ter Apel center in squalid conditions and Dutch aid agencies scrambled to provide medical and other assistance. The situation has improved little since then with regular overcrowding.

The Northern Netherlands District Court ordered the accommodation organization, known by its Dutch

acronym COA, to bring the number of asylum-seekers in Ter Apel below 2,000 within two weeks.

If it fails, the organization will have to pay a 50,000-euro penalty each day the number is exceeded up to a maximum of 5 million euros.

In January, the same court made a similar order, but imposed a penalty of 15,000 euros per day up to a maximum of 1.5 million euros.

There was no immediate reaction from COA or the municipality to Wednesday's court ruling.

It came days after the ruling coalition announced unprecedented measures aimed at reining in migration, including a reintroduction of border checks, making the Netherlands

the latest European nation to take a hard-line stance against migration as anti-foreigner sentiment surges throughout much of the continent.

The four-party coalition

was formed after months of wrangling that followed a stunning election victory for Geert Wilders' Party for Freedom that campaigned on pledges to drastically reduce migration. □



Migrants seek shelter outside an overcrowded asylum seekers center in Ter Apel, located in the northern Netherlands, Aug. 25, 2022.

Associated Press



# U.N. General Assembly condemns the U.S. economic embargo of Cuba for a 32nd year

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — The U.N. General Assembly voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to condemn the American economic embargo of Cuba for a 32nd year after its foreign minister strongly criticized the Biden administration and expressed hope a new president would end it.

The vote in the 193-member world body was 187-2, with only the United States and Israel against the resolution, and one abstention. It tied the record for support for the Caribbean nation first reached in 2019 and again last year.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez blamed the U.S. government's "maximum pressure policy" aimed at depriving Cuba of the imported fuel it relies on for a widespread blackout this month, including when Hurricane Oscar lashed the island.

"President Joseph Biden's administration usually claims that its policy is intended to 'help and support the Cuban people,'" he said.

"Who would believe such an assertion?"

General Assembly resolu-



**Bruno Eduardo Rodriguez Parrilla, Cuba's foreign minister speaks during a United Nations Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question at U.N. headquarters, Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024.**

tions are not legally binding, but they reflect world opinion, and the vote has given Cuba an annual stage to demonstrate that the U.S. stands apart in its decades-old efforts to isolate the Caribbean nation.

Cuba has struggled with one of the worst economic and energy crises in its history. Besides waves of blackouts, citizens are frustrated over food shortages and inflation.

Hundreds of thousands have migrated, many headed to the United States.

The embargo was imposed in 1960 following the revolution led by Fidel Castro and the nationalization of properties belonging to U.S. citizens and corporations. Two years later, it was strengthened.

Then-Cuban President Raul Castro and then-President Barack Obama officially re-

stored relations in July 2016, and that year the U.S. abstained on the resolution calling for an end to the embargo for the first time. But Obama's successor, Donald Trump, sharply criticized Cuba's human rights record, and in 2017 the U.S. again voted against the resolution, and it has ever since.

U.S. deputy ambassador, Paul Folmsbee, told the

assembly that the United States strongly supports the Cuban people's pursuit of a future that respects human rights and fundamental freedoms.

"Sanctions are one element of our broader effort to advance democracy and promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Cuba," he said.

He noted that about 1,000 political prisoners have been unjustly detained in Cuba, more than at any point in Cuba's recent history.

Folmsbee said U.S. sanctions exempt food, medicine and other basic goods and that the U.S. exported nearly \$336 million in agricultural products and authorized additional humanitarian exports last year.

In May, the U.S. lifted some financial restrictions against Cuba in an effort to boost private businesses on the island. That included allowing independent entrepreneurs to open and access U.S. bank accounts online to support their businesses as well as steps to open up more internet-based services and expand private companies' ability to make certain financial transactions. □

Associated Press

## Indigenous people march in Brazil's capital against bill limiting land rights

By FABIANO MAISONNAVE and ERAALDO PERES

Associated Press

**BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)** — Bearing images of animals and covered in body paint,

hundreds of Indigenous people marched Wednesday in Brazil's capital, urging Congress to drop a proposed constitutional amendment that has the

potential to paralyze and even reverse land allocations.

The bill aims to add to the Constitution a legal theory, championed by the agribusiness caucus, that the date the Constitution was promulgated Oct. 5, 1988 should be the deadline for Indigenous peoples to have already either physically occupied claimed land or be legally fighting to reoccupy territory. Lawmakers from the caucus also claim it provides legal certainty for landholders. Indigenous rights groups have argued that establishing a deadline is unfair, as it does not account for expulsions and forced displacements of Indigenous populations, particularly

during Brazil's agriculture frontier expansion in the 20th century.

"We are aware of the interests of mining companies, ranchers and oil companies in our lands.

How many lives will be destroyed if this bill passes?" Alessandra Korap, an Indigenous leader of the Mundurucu tribe, told The Associated Press.

On Sept. 21, 2023, the Supreme Court rejected the deadline concept, which formed part of a lawsuit brought by Santa Catarina state. In the vote that secured the majority, Justice Luiz Fux argued that areas connected to Indigenous ancestry and traditions are protected by the Constitution, even if not officially

recognized.

It was a moment of widespread celebration among Indigenous communities and their advocates.

One week after the ruling, pro-agribusiness lawmakers began pushing for congressional approval of the deadline.

One initiative is the proposed constitutional amendment that the Indigenous movement fears will come up for a vote in the coming days.

Congress also passed a law in December that established the 1988 deadline.

The Indigenous movement and political parties appealed to the Supreme Court, which hasn't yet issued a ruling on the matter. □



**Indigenous groups take part in protest against the prospective creation of a benchmark time limit that threatens to strip some their lands, in Brasilia, Brazil, Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024.**

Associated Press



# National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation

The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches—a very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And

hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

## Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

## The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten



North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, ATV or 4x4 vehicle.

## Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest

to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave. The bird drawing in the park logo is a copy of one of these historical artistic expressions.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

## Park Management

For the management of the park, a dedicated foundation "Fundacion Parke Nacional Arikok" (FPNA), known today as

the Aruba National Park Foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under FPNA management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of FPNA. In 2019 management plans will be established for the new MPAs which include: coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove systems, a large diversity of breeding seabirds. Parke Marino Aruba also contains potential shark nursery areas, endangered sea turtle nesting beaches and marine mammal nursery areas. □







## Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Candelchi!



**(Oranjestad)**—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Candelchi" (Squirrelfish), a common, yet shy fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba.

Let's talk about the names

of fish. Do you know your fish? The Department of Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, known as Santa Rosa, offers this informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamentu.

**Candelchi, Squirrelfish, Holocentrus adscensionis:** Candelchi actually refers

to the entire squirrelfish family or, as some say,

when we say candelchi, we mean several different species but without distinguishing them by species. In this picture, we are showing the most common one in our waters, which is called squirrelfish in English or scientifically known as *Holocentrus adscensionis*.

Under candelchi, we in Aruba generally refer to all the different species of squirrelfish. They all look alike and it's really difficult to distinguish between them.

The squirrelfish family is distinguished by the following characteristics. They are heart-shaped with pink or red hues and often show heart-shaped streaks between the scales along the body. They have hard fins and are always armed. Over at our sister island Curaçao, they are called "bari

di clabo" (nail barrel) for that reason.

In our waters, there are 7 to 8 types or species present and they are sometimes caught and seen occasionally. They can be distinguished by different marks such as color on the dorsal spine or marks on the body.

### In Aruba:

Candelchi are found on reefs or areas with structure in the water where they can hide. Although they prefer to hunt for food at night, they are also active during the day. They are edible and delicious when prepared dry and crispy with lime. It is particularly challenging to scale the fish, which is why it is not one of the favorites among fishermen. They often live in groups. □

## Dining in? Try making a local favorite How to make "pan bati"

**(Oranjestad)**—If you're ever up for an Aruban snack, try making another Aruban classic appetizer called Pan Bati. Similar to a pancake both in appearance and cooking, this is a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

### Ingredients:

2 cups of all purpose flour  
1 cup grams of fine cornmeal (we recommend the Harina PAN brand)  
2 tbsp baking powder  
1 1/3 cup of milk  
1 pinch of salt  
2 tbsp of granulated sugar  
Oil for cooking

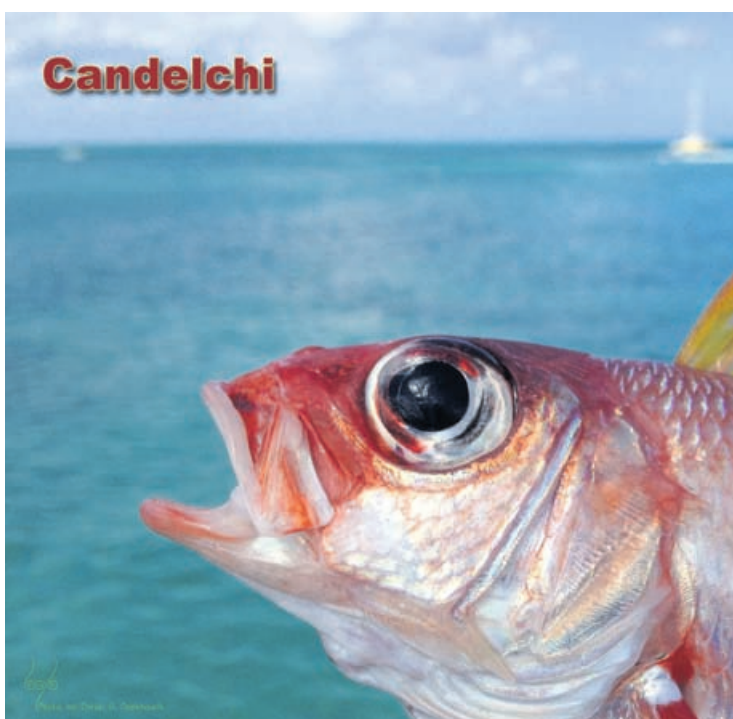
### Instructions:

Add all the dry ingredients in a bowl first, and stir until well mixed. Then add the milk and beat until reached a pancake-like consistency. If more moisture is needed, add some water until reached desired consistency.



In a hot pan with oil, pour in enough batter to cover the bottom of the pan. Just like pancakes, flip the pan bati when one side turns golden brown. When your pan bati is ready, place on a plate and cover with a clean kitchen towel.

Traditionally, pan bati is cut in triangle pieces, and is often eaten as a side dish with soup, fried fish or stews. However, it is also casually enjoyed with some butter and cheese on top! □





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## Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!



**NOORD - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothed, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.**

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea

glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry! Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were dis-

carded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass. Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day! Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! ☐





## Blackstone Beach



(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day,

visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba: the stones that cover the beaches and the shape of it has been crafted for thousand years via volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island. Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach



is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1 km hike towards Blackstone Beach.

This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the

current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! □

## Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your "off-road" trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

### Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding "mondi"\*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric mark-

ings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

### Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of



the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south. Right in front of the entrance, there is the Casibari Café and Grill, a great place to get refreshments and snack before continuing your off-road adventure!

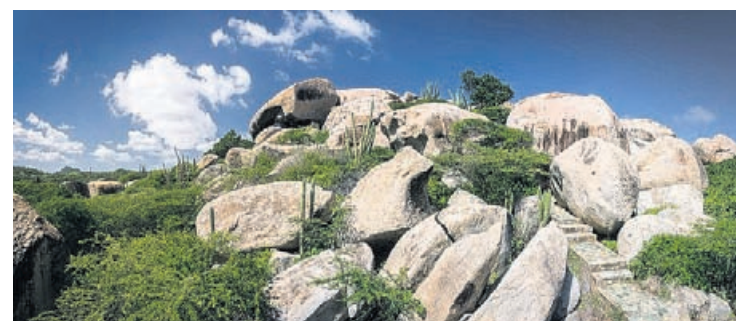
taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see

along the way!

\*Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi! □



Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are





## Papiamento words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a melting pot of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamento above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamento you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamento means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamento word for tourists.

### Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say "hello" in Papiamento. At least, not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?"

The word "con" in Papiamento



means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo" (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".

### Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamento is no different. Since Papiamento is heavily influenced from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phras-

es may look very familiar.

1. Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.
2. Bon tardi. In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the short-

ened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.

3. Bon nochi. You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

### Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamento. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation. However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

### Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much". □

## Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building "Cocolishi", is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actu-

ally referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called "Willem III Toren". Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant

Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times



(The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era). Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is. Despite its small size, The

Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm.

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba  
by Jan Hartog.





CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 38 More

- 1 Paul original  
Bunyan's 39 Fathered  
ox 40 Visitor to  
5 Memo Siam  
letters 41 Iowa city

DOWN

- 1 Makes cookies  
2 Wise sayings  
3 Kate Bush album  
4 Caribou's kin  
5 Jingle writer  
6 Crystal gazer  
7 Crosby, Stills & Nash album  
8 Iran, once  
10 With no trouble  
12 Chopper part  
17 Dance step  
19 Au naturel  
22 Went under  
24 School break  
25 Peripheral org.  
26 Black Sea peninsula  
27 Whale school  
28 Evening party  
30 Sparkly crown  
31 Is lacking  
33 Later  
37 Spying

GRAB	MEMES
LILAC	ADELE
ASTRO	TIGER
ZEE	UPSTAGE
ENRAGE	TAN
HARP	ONE
STAR	RENT
CUE	SLUG
UMA	ENGAGE
RAMPAGE	TEX
STILL	RHONE
ERNIE	SONIC
SAGES	TEES

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13				14							
15			16	17							
18			19				20				
21						22					
23					24						
25	26			27				28			
29			30					31			
32			33				34				
35					36	37					
38					39						
40							41				

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-12 CRYPTOQUOTE

AQ RAM SCMRG UMQG CMB

GZQNS. AQ RAM GZQNSG UMQG

CMB SCMR. — HNM BWY

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I GOT WELL BY TALKING. DEATH COULD NOT GET A WORD IN EDGEWISE, GREW DISCOURAGED, AND TRAVELED ON. — LOUISE ERDRICH. "TRACKS"

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

							5	9
			5					7
8					9	4		1
		9			3		4	
	6				1			2
1					2	7	9	
		7		4				
	3	5	1				2	
6		8				3	7	

Difficulty: ★★★

10/31

Answer to previous puzzle

8	6	1	4	7	5	2	3	9
5	9	7	6	2	3	8	4	1
3	4	2	9	1	8	7	6	5
6	5	4	7	9	2	3	1	8
2	8	9	3	5	1	6	7	4
7	1	3	8	4	6	5	9	2
1	3	6	5	8	4	9	2	7
4	7	5	2	6	9	1	8	3
9	2	8	1	3	7	4	5	6

Difficulty: ★★★

10/30

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety

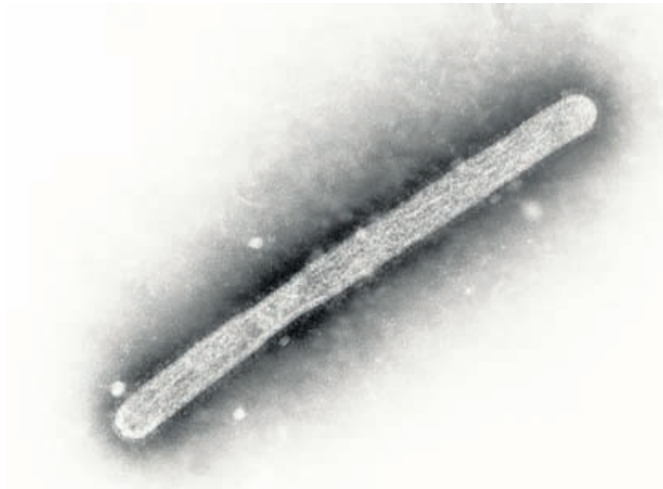


Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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# 1st U.S. case of bird flu in a pig raises concerns over potential human threat



This 2005 electron microscope image shows an avian influenza A H5N1 virion.

Associated Press

By **MIKE STOBBE**  
AP Medical Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A pig at an Oregon farm was found to have bird flu, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Wednesday. It's the first time the virus has been detected in U.S. swine and raises concerns about bird flu's potential to become a human threat. The infection happened at a backyard farm in Crook County, in the center of the state, where different animals share water and are housed together. Last week, poultry at the farm were found to have the virus, and testing this week found that one of the farm's five pigs had become infected. The farm was put under

quarantine and all five pigs were euthanized so additional testing could be done. It's not a commercial farm, and U.S. agriculture officials said there is no concern about the safety of the nation's pork supply. But finding bird flu in a pig raises worries that the virus may be hitting a stepping stone to becoming a bigger threat to people, said Jennifer Nuzzo, a Brown University pandemic researcher. Pigs can be infected with multiple types of flu, and the animals can play a role in making bird viruses better adapted to humans, she explained. The 2009 H1N1 flu pandemic had swine origins, Nuzzo noted. "If we're trying to stay

ahead of this virus and prevent it from becoming a threat to the broader public, knowing if it's in pigs is crucial," Nuzzo said. The USDA has conducted genetic tests on the farm's poultry and has not seen any mutations that suggest the virus is gaining an increased ability to spread to people. That indicates the current risk to the public remains low, officials said.

A different strain of the bird flu virus has been reported in pigs outside the U.S. in the past, and it did not trigger a human pandemic. □

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# A musical, pulpy crime thriller, 'Emilia Pérez' swings for the fences

By **LINDSEY BAHR**  
AP Film Writer

There is so much going on in "Emilia Pérez," the audacious musical/melodrama/crime-thriller from filmmaker Jacques Audiard, it's impossible not to appreciate the sheer ambition of it all. There is obvious craft and moments of true transcendence, beauty and horror. Set around Mexico City, this is a movie about family, about ambition, about the possibility of change, cartels, human disappearances, gender-affirmation, money and corruption. Sometimes the characters break into fantastical musical numbers: Some are filled with rage, others with joy and hope. Other times the songs come out in barely a whisper. And yet even with all that life and color and passion on screen, there's a distinct rift between all those big emotions that the characters are cycling through and what the audience is feeling, which is practically nothing. It's almost as if "Emilia Pérez" forgot to invite us along for the ride. And it is quite a ride: One day a cartel boss named Manitas ( Karla Sofía Gascón ) has a smart, but



This image released by Netflix shows Karla Sofía Gascón as Emilia Pérez in a scene from "Emilia Pérez."

Associated Press

undervalued lawyer Rita Mora Castro ( Zoe Saldaña ) kidnapped. Manitas wants gender confirmation surgery, and for Rita to handle the logistics: Hiring the discreet surgeon, faking Manitas' death and transporting the wife, Jessi ( Selena Gomez ) and two kids to their new home in Switzerland. In return, Rita will get rich. Somehow, this is only the first act.

Four years later, Rita's gotten a glow up. Gone are her bush eyebrows and frumpy suit, replaced with the kind of grooming only money and genetics like Saldaña's can produce. And she's leading a cosmopolitan life in London, something that we get to see all too briefly, when she meets another woman who's gone through a major transformation, Emilia

Pérez (Gascón).

Audiard plays briefly with the idea that Rita assumes Emilia is there to kill her, to rid the world of any remaining evidence of those who know what happened. In actuality, she just misses her kids and wants them back in Mexico to live with her. It's up to Rita to get them to move once more, in with Emilia, posing as an aunt they've never met before

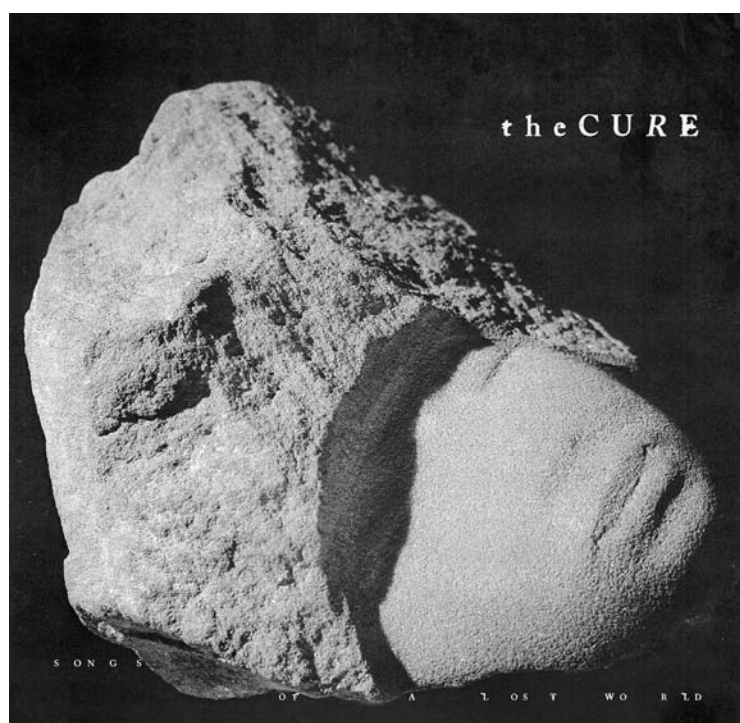
if you're wondering where all those "Mrs. Doubtfire" comparisons come into play. ( The bloody "Sicario" stuff is yet to come).

Saldaña lends a captivating fierceness to Rita, despite being a terribly underwritten character. It's strange to spend so much time with someone and feel entirely detached from who they are and what they want. She just follows others around, a receptacle for everyone else's decisions with little arc or agency of her own.

Early on in the film Rita debates (in song) with a plastic surgeon in Hong Kong about whether or not changing the body has any effect on the soul. He doesn't think so. She does, and even goes a step further, singing "changing the soul changes society, changing society changes everything."

It's a lovely idea that the film handles clumsily in its maximalist, go-for-broke way that values massive set-pieces and high drama over authentic emotion. At first Emilia seems entirely changed, no longer the vindictive, jealous, violent cartel leader she once was. □

# The Cure return after a long break to look at mortality with one of their best albums



This album cover image released by Fiction/Capitol Records shows "Songs of a Lost World" by The Cure.

Associated Press

By **MARK KENNEDY**  
AP Entertainment Writer

You might think that after being silent for 16 years, The Cure would be in a rush to get things going. Think again. It takes over three minutes of "Alone" the first song on their new album before we finally hear Robert Smith's voice. The Cure are back, but definitely on their terms.

The eight-track album "Songs of a Lost World" is lush and deeply orchestral, swelling and powerful, with often several minutes of instruments jamming before any singing.

There are melancholic and mournful lyrics that confront mortality and wonder where time went. "I'm outside in the dark/Wonder-

ing/How I got so old," Smith sings in the last, sprawling, heartbreaking song.

"Songs of a Lost World" is, indeed, not of this world. None of the tunes are under four minutes and the last one saunters past 10. In an era when music is fashioned for microbursts on TikTok, Smith is disinterested. He lets songs take their time, unrushed and able to breathe, the beauty of the melodies and instruments leading the way.

The first and last songs are in conversation, with the first stating "This is the end/Of every song we sing/Alone" and the final echoing the thought: "It's all gone/Left alone with nothing/The end of every song." There is a finality that fans will find

distressful.

The album is The Cure's first since 2008's "4:13 Dream" although Smith has been making music, including a terrific collaboration with CHVRCHES. Eight new songs doesn't sound like a lot, but they are all rich and satisfying.

One of the highlights is "I Can Never Say Goodbye," in which a simple, insistent piano noodle is surrounded by fluttering guitar work as Smith comes to terms with his brother's death. The band also goes cinematic with "And Nothing Is Forever," which has an Aaron Copland bright orchestral vibe, while "Warsong" is a dissonant, spikey downer that concludes "we are born to war." □



# Roster chaos born of NIL money and the transfer portal have turned college hoops upside-down

By DAVE SKRETTA

AP Basketball Writer

**LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP)** — KJ Adams Jr. is sitting in a corner of Hadl Auditorium, just down the hallway from Allen Fieldhouse, the historic home of the top-ranked Kansas basketball team, and the place that the senior forward has called home for the past four years.

He is a rarity these days, when players are allowed to transfer freely, often in the pursuit of lucrative name, image and likeness contracts that could make a handful of them instant millionaires. Adams joined the Jayhawks out of high school, played important minutes on a national championship team as a freshman, and has never wavered in his commitment to the program.

"I think it would be cool if more guys stayed four years," Adams says, glancing around the room at eight newcomers including six transfers that form the backbone of this year's team. "You miss all the



**Kansas head coach Bill Self watches during the second half of an exhibition NCAA college basketball game against Washburn Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024, in Lawrence, Kan. Kansas won 84-53.**  
Associated Press

guys that have come and gone."

Even at Kansas, a destination school for so many, Adams has played with 32 scholarship teammates during his career.

Yet such roster change is a fact of life in major college basketball, perhaps more

than in football or any other sport. Entire teams can change almost overnight, and players that started for them one season can be starting against them the next.

To wit: There were roughly 700 players who elected to transfer from Division I pro-

grams five years ago. That number nearly tripled this past offseason, a gargantuan number made even larger by upperclassmen who were granted an extra year of eligibility because their careers collided with the pandemic.

There might have been no

better example than Arkansas, where John Calipari is taking over after 15 years with Kentucky.

The Hall of Fame coach arrived in Fayetteville in April to find that 13 players had transferred, graduated or quit in the days after Eric Musselman left for Southern California. Calipari was fortunate that Trevon Brazile ultimately withdrew from the NBA Draft and returned to the Razorbacks; otherwise, he would have been starting entirely from scratch.

"I met with the team," Calipari said upon his hiring, "and there is no team."

There is now, of course. Calipari simply did what every coach has been forced to do: He mined the transfer portal. Three of his new players were relatively easy sells, given they came along from Kentucky, and three more transfers including the coveted guard Johnell Davis from FAU and forward Jonas Aidoo from Tennessee eventually joined the Razorbacks. □

## Youth sports study finds fewer boys playing while participation among girls has increased

**WASHINGTON (AP)** —

Children and teenagers playing sports overall has increased even as participation among boys has dropped off, according to an annual study released Wednesday.

Participation for girls was at its highest levels since at least 2012 in part due to the phenomenal rise of University of Iowa-turned-Indiana Fever star Caitlin Clark leading youth to want to play basketball, according to the study from the Aspen Institute.

The group said the National Survey of Children's Health, administered through the U.S. Census Bureau, found that 53.8% of young people ages 6-17 played sports in 2022.

The Sports & Fitness Industry Association, which tracks youth participation

by sport, found in 2023 that there was a 6% increase in young people who regularly participated in a team sport, which it said was the highest rate (39.8%) since 2015.

The SFIA data, however, found only 41% of boys participated regularly in sports in 2023, a decrease from 10 years earlier when half of all boys took part.

Federal government data also shows a decline for boys over the past decade, although not as steep, according to the study.

Thirty-four percent of girls ages 6-12 participated and 38% of girls ages 13-17 took part in sports in 2023, a higher level than in any recent year dating to at least 2012.

Tom Cove, SFIA senior adviser and former president/CEO, said the change was

significant and "it's a mystery to me why."

Cove speculated that making teams has become harder and that when boys miss the cut, they stop playing. Girls, he said, are not getting cut as often as boys are.

"My sense is youth sports have become a self-fulfilling prophecy around travel and competition, and there aren't enough places to play when you get cut," Cove said.

Black children are playing sports less than they once did, while Hispanic participation is increasing. SFIA data shows that 35% of Black youth ages 6-17 regularly participated in sports during 2023, down from 45% in 2013, when Black children played at a higher rate than white peers. White, Hispanic and

Asian American children all played sports more frequently in 2023 than Black youth.

The study said the increases among girls can be attributed in part to Clark's performance on the court.

"Her deep shooting range inspires younger players and may change the women's game much the way NBA star Stephen Curry changed the men's game more than a decade ago," the study said. □



**Iowa forward Hannah Stuelke, left, celebrates with teammate guard Caitlin Clark, during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game against Penn State, Feb. 8, 2024, in Iowa City, Iowa.**

Associated Press



# Jets' Aaron Rodgers feeling spicy on a short week, maybe thanks to some cayenne pepper

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr. AP Pro Football Writer

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)

— A little cayenne pepper might have put some pep back in Aaron Rodgers' step.

The New York Jets quarterback is preparing for a quick turnaround with the team's next game Thursday night at home against the Houston Texans. The 40-year-old Rodgers has been banged up during the Jets' miserable 2-6 start, dealing with a sprained ankle, a sore knee and hamstring tightness.

But maybe thanks partly to a simple but spicy concoction suggested by 38-year-old punter Thomas Morstead, Rodgers feels ready to try to help the Jets snap



New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers (8) celebrates in front of New England Patriots cornerback Marcus Jones (25) and cornerback Christian Gonzalez (0) after Jets running back Braelon Allen ran for a touchdown in the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024, in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

their five-game skid.

"T-Mo gave me a little fountain of youth he said he's been taking for a while," a smiling Rodgers said Tuesday. "All legal, of course. ... He's been taking like cayenne pepper and water, so he gave me some before the game."

"Felt pretty good, but I've been kind of gassing him up that that's why I'm feeling so good. I'm not sure how much that's playing a factor."

Cayenne pepper is thought to have several potential benefits, including helping with metabolic and gastrointestinal health.

Rodgers could certainly stand to add a little spice to what has been a mild start. He has 12 touchdown passes, but has been intercepted seven times in eight games — six off his career high during his first year as a starter with Green Bay in 2008. And likely hindered a bit by the leg issues he tore the Achilles tendon in the same leg four snaps into last year's season opener Rodgers hasn't been able to move around on the field as he once did.

"As far as my body's been concerned, my left Achilles, thanks to Doc and the rehab I did, it's felt incredible," Rodgers said. "The rest of my body hasn't held up as well, but that (Achilles tendon) hasn't been an issue, thankfully."

After New York's 25-22 loss at New England on Sunday, Patriots 330-pound nose tackle Davon Godchaux told reporters he noticed a difference in Rodgers.

"Yeah, I think he's struggling right now," Godchaux said. "Just a Hall of Fame quarterback like that, hate to see him go out that way, but always gonna take a win against him, look good on your resume."

"But, yeah, he definitely don't look the same. You just don't know if he could move back there."

I can run him down and catch him. He don't look mobile at all."

Rodgers was told of Godchaux's comments — and didn't disagree. □



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